

Message Text

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ACTION OIC-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 DIWY-01 CU-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4264

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AMEMBASSY MEXICO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 7873

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: RP, IM IWY, UN, OCON, ELAB

SUBJECT: WORLD CONFERENCE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR (WCIWY)

REF: MANILA 7797

1. AS REQUESTED STATE 129496, HERewith BRIEF BIO-
GRAPHIC INFORMATION ON PRINCIPAL DELEGATES.

2. IMELDA ROMUALDEZ MARCOS (AGE 45), HEADING DELEGATION, WILL
APPARENTLY BE SHARING SPECIAL GUEST SPOTLIGHT WITH SUCH
REPORTED PROBABLE PARTICIPANTS AS ISABEL PERON, INDIRA
GANDHI, JIHAD SADAT AND MRS. BANDARANAIKE. SHE IS CUR-
RENTLY ACCOMPANYING PRESIDENT MARCOS ON STATE VISIT
TO PEKING, AND WILL LIKELY STILL BE BASKING IN REFELECTED
GLORY THAT MUCH-BALLYHOOED VISIT UPON ARRIVAL MEXICO.
KNOWN FOR HER JET-SET STYLE, SHE HAS DABBLED INCREASINGLY
IN FOREIGN POLICY AND WAS IN MEXICO AS GUEST OF PRESIDENT
ECHEVERRIA IN 1974. FOLLOWING SEVERAL ALLEGED
"GRIEVANCES", SHE FEELS SHE HAS BEEN SLIGHTED BY U.S.
EMBASSY'S A-135 OF MAY 28, 1975, PROVIDES FULL ANDIN-
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DEPTH STUDY OF MADAME MARCOS, FIRST LADY OF THE PHILIP-

PINES; "NEW SOCIETY".

3. ESTAFANIA ALDABA LIM (AGE 58), SECRETARY OF SOCIAL WELFARE, IS ONLY WOMAN MEMBER OF CABINET AND IS GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ON SOCIAL CONDITIONS, FAMILY PLANNING AND MATTERS OF PHYSICAL AND MENTAL WELL-BEING. DR. LIM HOLDS PH.D. IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY FROM UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN. SHE HAS REPRESENTED PHILIPPINES AT MORE THAN 50 UNESCO AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES IN HER FIELD OF INTEREST. VERY CLOSE TO FIRST LADY, SHE IS HIGHEST RANKING FEMALE OFFICIAL IN GOP AND SECOND-RANKING WOMAN IN PHILIPPINES, ECLIPSED ONLY BY MRS. MARCOS. FRIENDLY TOWARDS AMERICANS.

4. LETICIA RAMOS SHAHANI (AGE 45), AMBASSADOR TO ROMANIA AND CHAIRPERSON OF UN COMMISSION ON STATUS OF WOMEN, RECENTLY HEADED INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION IN DFA. QUIET, CONSCIENTIOUS, AND INTELLIGENT, SHE IS SINCERE NATIONALIST WHO GENUINELY BELIEVES IN RIGHTNESS OF NEW SOCIETY. ALTHOUGH SHE HAS BEEN FRIENDLY WITH U.S. EMBASSY HERE, SHE HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT SUSPICIOUS OF OUR EFFORTS TO WORK WITH HER ON UN MATTERS, AND HAS RIGIDLY SUPPORTED MARTIAL LAW. SEE BIO DATA FORM DATED FEB. 11, 1975.

5. CECILIA MUNOZ PALMA IS FIRST WOMAN TO BE APPOINTED TO PHILIPPINE SUPREME COURT (1973) AND STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE SHE IS FIRST WOMAN SUPREME COURT JUSTICE OF ANY NATION. AGE 62, SHE HAS HAD LONG AND DISTINGUISHED CAREER IN LEGAL FIELD AND IS NOW SECOND HIGHEST RANKING FEMALE OFFICIAL IN GOP.

6. 16 PERSON OFFICIAL DELEGATION GIVES EVERY IMPRESSION BEING HIGH-POWERED AND WELL-BALANCED GROUP WHICH SHOULD GIVE GOOD ACCOUNT OF ITSELF IN MEXICO CITY. ONLY MEN ON DELEGATION ARE AMBASSADOR TO MEXICO LEON GUERRERO AND UNDERSECRETARY RONY DIAZ (DIRECTOR GENERAL, NATIONAL MANPOWER AND YOUTH CENTER). DIAZ IS CURRENTLY IN GENEVA SERVING AS CHAIRMAN OF PHILIPPINE ILO DELEGATION. PURNELL

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